Overseas oil acquisitions

2904. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to invest 25 billion dollars for overseas oil acquisitions;

(b) whether Government have identified the countries for investing in the oil sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) To enhance the country's energy security, in keeping with the objectives of the Energy Security section of the National Common Minimum Programme, ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), the wholly owned subsidiary of ONGC engaged in E&P activities abroad as well as other national oil companies Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and Gail (India) Ltd. (GAIL) have been pursuing the acquisition of equity oil and gas abroad, as well as the overseas acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties. These companies have Participating Interests in oil and gas projects located in Vietnam, Sudan, Russia, Iraq, Iran, Myanmar, Libya, Syria, Austrialia, Ivory Coast, Qatar and Egypt.

OVL, in association with other oil sector PSUs, is aggressively scouting for E&P opportunities in countries such as Venezuela, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Yemen, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Angola, Cuba, Sierra Leone and Ecuador in addition to efforts to acquire more E & P assets in the countries where it is operating currently. An outlay of Rs. 13,550 crores has been approved in the Tenth Five Year Plan for OVL's E&P activities abroad.

National policy on bil-fuel

†2905. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to frame a national policy

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

on bio-fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when, this national policy would be framed; and

(d) the main purposes of this policy?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) After the success of the Pilot Projects on blending 5% ethanol in petrol in the year 2001, the Government implemented the 5% ethanol-blended petrol programme in natfied sugar producing States/adjoinng States and Union Territories. According to the parameters of the programme, *w.e.f.* 27.10.2004, if the price at which ethanol is offered for the programme is comparable to the price of ethanol for alternative uses, and is comparable to the delivery price of petrol at the notified locations, and if the supply of ethanol can be maintained at such prices, supply of 5% ethanol-blended-petrol in notified areas is mandatory.

For promotion of bio-diesel, the Planning Commission had set up a Committee on Development of Bio-fuel which recommended the launching of a National Mission on Bio-diesel with a special focus on the plantation of Jatropha curcas. The Ministry of Rural Development has been made the nodal Ministry for the National Mission on Bio-diesel and that Ministry has recently got a Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).

Road map for self-sufficiency in oil sector

2906. SHRI C.PERUMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any road map has been prepared to make the country self-sufficient in oil sector in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Given the increasing gap between demand